



# July 6, 1937

## *On the Road to Peiping*

### "THE FABLE OF QUIN AND ARIANA"







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Wish that I could truthfully look ya in the eyes and lie through my broken teeth that *"YES! I did just start this new project very early this AM..."*

If I had a lick of ability at this Lying Game stuff...I would go into great detail as to how I had this project's great *"Road to Damascus"* Moment down on the Breakfast Queue but...I'm **NOT** and so, I won't!

Never mind...I saw you already quit reading this post any way...

This is from the new book...

## **COMING SOON!**









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# Emil







# Emil







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July 6, 1937 is a date you may not have learned in your public school education but, it was a day before the China "Incident" that forever changed the world and it all started at a dusty crossroad on the way to

## CITY OF PEIPING

There was a clash where units of the Imperial Nippon Army vanquished Republic of China's (ROC) Home Guard Units giving the Japanese High Command the "rightful" excuse they had been looking for to abandon their agreement with USA Secretary of State Hull's Policy of

## "SELF-RESTRAINT."

The July 7th battle will seal the fate of the









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world and was the date that a World War was  
to become a done deal...this was the fail  
safe...this was

# THE RUBICON

and both sides claimed the other

## CROSS THE LINE

This project explores a pictorial view of the  
last day of peace and how different the view  
was from both sides.

Peiping was a uneventful city that was not  
a bastion of military might but, a peaceful  
and gentle people who had no way to  
understand what horrors the dawn of  
the next day would bring.





Emil

















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## QUIN AND ARIANA

Quin had always been a bright kid.

People from the old neighborhood always said that he was destined for a bright and exciting future.

He came from an upper-class merchant family in Shanghai and as the second son, he was free from the obligations to inherit the family business and could spend his days in furthering his studies.

And this he did do with great passion and committed to always being the head of his class no matter what. There was no time to learn from life and so much in his real-life experience had been lost in the process such as the acquirement of good friends and the discover of first loves –





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*"No time for such distractions...there is an important exam, next Friday to be mastered!"*

For over eighteen-years of his life, this would suffice and seem to be enough to carry him forward in his race to get to his future without never a care for where he had been or regrets for all things of living that had not been a valued part of his curriculum.

At age seventeen, he graduated from a top-rated, finishing academy where he had (in fact) had finished well ahead of all his peers and had secured a position in the College of Law at Shanghai University.









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Why law?

His parents advise law over medicine as doctors were among the poorest in most communities but there was a high demand for men expert in the law with the Kuomintang government and as a dutiful son; he took to the law as he had done in junior studies.

Everything...nothing ever changed in his life until his junior year and that is when he literally ran into Ariana on his way to his Criminal Justice Class.

Was it fate or bad luck?

I guess only time will tell but, what I can impress you with is the fact that his quiet, monk-like life









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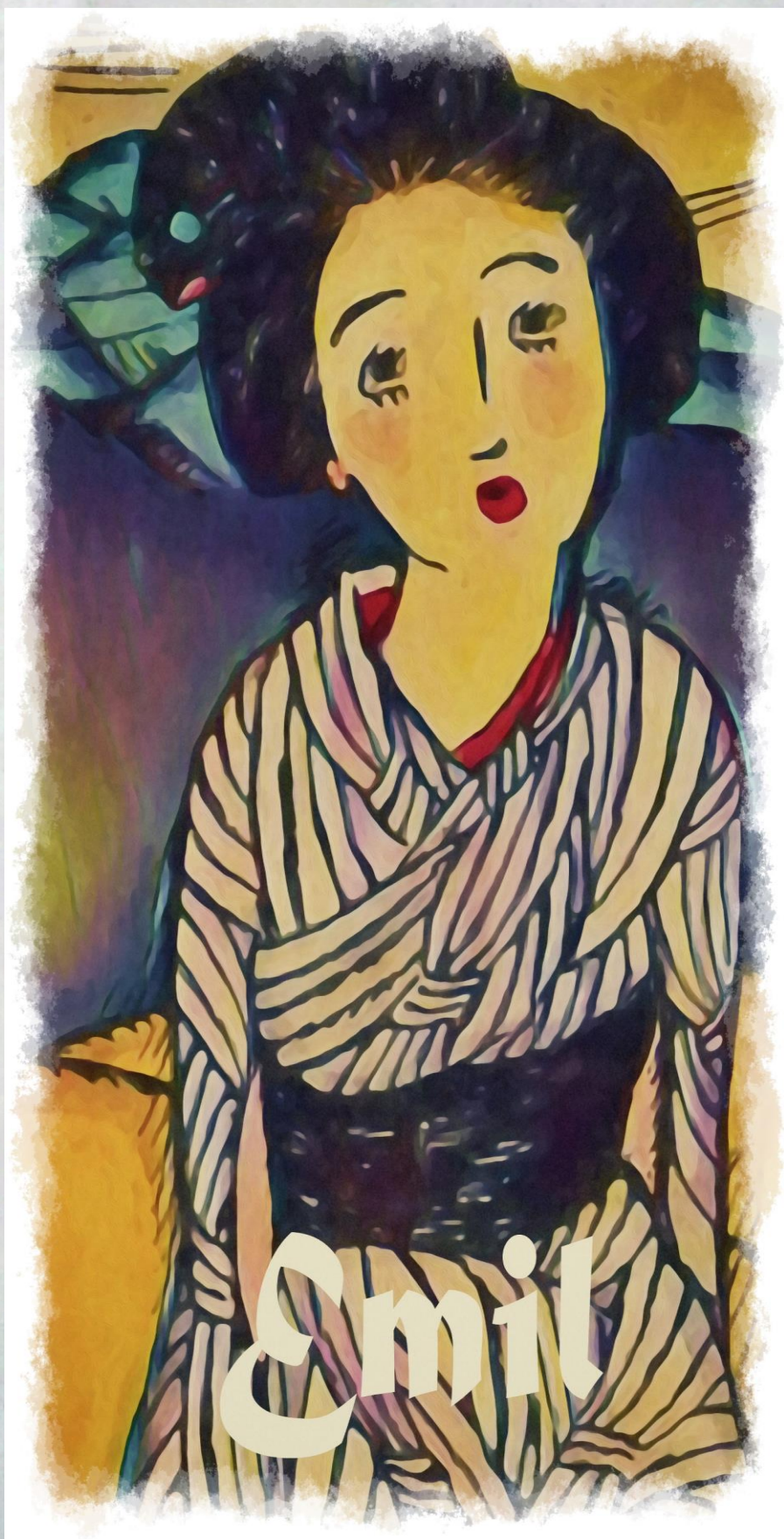
### “THE FABLE OF QUIN AND ARIANA”

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was to about drastically change into a series of calamities, misfortune and bad luck for Quin's descent into “interesting times.”

Although it was beyond rare for a woman to attend school beyond just a primary education in literacy or even that once you ventured out into the great heartlands of the Republic of China; Ariana was an exception in two ways. First of all, she was extremely smart way beyond what (even) most of her professors of confess to and in fact, they tried to avoid confrontation with her in the presence of others as he often times proved their archaic notions wrong and outdated.









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Secondly, her father had been a founding member of the T'ung Meng Hui (Revolutionary Alliance for all you Foreign Devils) and thus, sat on the right-hand side of the great leader, Sun-Yat-sen - which allowed him certain privileges that were denied too most.

More so, the second reason was the more important along with her father's desire to see that his daughter's brilliance not be wasted in some outdated, arranged marriage and the stagnant lifestyle of a pump, Provincial Dane – so she had been educated in some of the finest, proper schools in England and then, France before returning to China to take care of her father after









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her mom caught the fever and passed without much suffering.

This is how Ariana came to be running the opposite way when she crashed into Quin on that bright sunny day in the courtyards behind the College of Law.

Neither would admit to what was clear to all who actually witnessed the actual event; they mentioned in passing how these two seemed fated to meet and they talked in great detail about this random, chance meeting by two star-crossed lovers...even years later, they would recall how they witnesses a true case of









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"Love at first sight!"

They truly were (as their soon to be acquired friends would note) a poster child couple for those who practiced/believed in the great belief in the cosmic mixing of positive/negative energy vibrations that make all life possible here on the planet Earth (better known to all you Foreign Devils as the "Yin & Yang").

Ariana shined with all the brightness of a sky full of stars in the clean autumn, harvest night and Quin was the endless sea of dark energy that held the stars in the correct place in the heavens.

They were contradictory opposites but from this





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first chance meeting they became as inseparable as one would imagine trying to separate the stars from the night-time sky. It was impossible and this would in the end bring great sorrow to both of them.

In many ways, looking back, it would have been far better for both of them to have slowed down that morning and merely walked by each other unannounced or one not knowing to the other.

That's just my opinion for what it is worth.

But, had that happened and they had not met then, I would have one less story to tell and I









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would have one less paycheck to feed myself with...So...Good thing that they met – If I am to be like totally truthful and selfish.

Ariana had been educated well in some of the finest schools out in the western world so her mind was not cluttered with what she referred unkindly to as “womanish issues” and felt herself to be equal (if not superior to) to any of what she (also) unkindly referred to as the “whole lot of unmanly men” that populated (or did she say polluted?) the university...yet another reason why most men avoid her acquaintance.

In 1937, she was very much out of place even in









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the most enlightened portions of the International Enclave – where most of the Foreign Devils attempted to recreate a vision of their homeland (which sadly was more dream than reality even in England). Even there, she was still considered an odd fish...

When she returned from Paris and her friend discovered her addicted to the strong decadence of the Western Foreign Devils; many freely encouraged her to go up north to the newly founded Manchukuo Republic where her unsettling Western Ways would not only be allowed but, much encouraged given that the Republic's Queen was rather fond of and had









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surrounded herself with what the university professors openly called the Queen's "Harem of Concubines."

There was no doubt the Ruling Class of Manchukuo were a most liberal lot much more than it seemed that even their Japanese Hosts would have agreed to.

She turned a deaf ear as to such rude, a bit nasty and sometime vaguer comments as she had returned to China as it was her home and her father needed her help managing his affairs with his own declining health.

"Little minds and big butts!" had been her usual









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response as she shook her head in sadness and walked away.

When her father inquired into how she dealt with such a reaction to her personal style and to his delight, she would quote Mark Twain and say:

“Never argue with a fool, onlookers may not be able to tell the difference...”

Somewhere, far deeper down in her soul, there was a twang of bitterness at their cruel words but like the moon, her dark side was well hidden in the dark shadows of her contempt of those who so blindly turned away from the truths that she spoke and then, relished so gleefully in twisting and









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distorting them if for no other reason than to turn away any that might think that she made a good observation or two.

Not your average Chinese Dane (in waiting)?

Now, was she?

It is clear that even closest friends could not embrace her wild spirit and over the next few years; many dropped away and freighted illness as they turned her visits away.

Then, Quin had the fortune to be standing directly in her path and as they say in Hollywood...the rest "Is history!"









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Odds, luck and chances would never have thought that this "Yin and Yang" match would have joined at this junction but with the advantage of knowing how this story ends; there was no way of getting around the stubborn fact that it was predestine by the great universal script writer (God) and nothing could have denied it.

Why?

To explain it now would take the best out of this tale and I might lose your attendance.









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## QUIN AND ARIANA 2

*{When we last saw Quin and Ariana; they had just bumped into each other on what no one understood the cosmic calamite that these seeming accidental meeting wrought on the future time lines and how it leads directly to the events on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1937}*

There is a delicate dance of events and circumstances that we are skipping over (even though each tie and relates directly back to the main events of this tale) in order to keep your interest and not turn their star-bound love affair upstage the main story line in what would (no doubt) be a fully-fraught and somewhat X-Rated mini-series.





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## QUIN AND ARIANA 2

As you know, Ariana is a force and a power of radical change in the conservative days before the war. Not being one to actual use common sense or restrain when confronted with an injustice; Ariana never thought to modify or change her mind even in difference to Quin's shaky position with his studies due to his public relationship with a person whom his professors decried as the "Step Daughter" of the Great Satan.

Mild manner and soft spoke Quin stood no match for the constant pressure from the University to denounce Ariana and divorce himself from her radical platform that constituted (in part) the





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Suffrage of Womankind whether or not they sought it out for themselves.

Amongst the shop, factory girls and an equally rumored association with the outlawed Communist League she was the visible face that rose rallies to denounce the very source of her father's power and thus, his ability to protect her from being purged and banished out to the wind-stripped bounder lands to be bride to some small town Tai-Pan or local warlord.

Her father pleaded with her that these are difficult time of a two-front war against both the Japanese and the Communist Bandits who were rolling over





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the Northern Frontier much like a rouge, Mongol Army Horde; he pleaded for her to hold her sharp tongue as the most senior...the upper most levels of the Kuomintang. He warned her that even General Chiang had taken him aside to warn him to calm his daughter before thing spiraled too long out of control.

Though a good daughter and she (without doubt) had a deep love for her father but, she told him that she did what she did out of the way that he had raised her and to (now) stay calm would be disrespectful to everything he had ever taught her.

So that was that!









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It was a cold, autumn day and a light rain had been sprinkling the city on-and-off for most of the day; there was to be a major rally in the afternoon traffic that would for the first time bring a united front against the corruption of the Tai-Pan Gangsters who were rumored to have made a deal with the Japanese to seed a large portion of China to the Nippon Emperor's (so-called) Soldiers of God in exchange for position, power and a rumored massive amount of money into their own personal accounts.

Ariana claimed to have documents that proved this to be true and that at the rally; it would be there





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that she released them to the awaiting press (local and foreign).

The arrest(s) were swift and Ariana was whisked off to a nearby Kuomintang Ministry where there was endless hour of questioning, threats of banishment and the ruination of her family and friends to get her to hand over the missing documents that were no where to be found by the police squad searching both her office and home.

Out of deferment as to her father's statue in the party, everyone knew that the investigator's threats were nearly as empty as her loft apartment that





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overlooked the riverfront in one of Shanghai's most trendy neighborhoods.

It comes down to the question(s) of did those reported document actually exist or was it a pre-arranged bluff to force the hand of the police and the corrupt gangster who she did all but call out by name and Ariana wasn't giving them any clue(s) as to which might be true.

Opinions of speculation perennated the room of investigators on whether she was had made the entire story up, had she overheard conversations of officials related to her father's senior status or if it was true and that a group of senior party members





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were in negotiations to betray the Republic for their pieces of silver and a role in any Japanese Administration – not unlike the deal cut with the Manchurians several years ago now.

This was far too serious for the government to walk away from but, still to go too far with the only daughter of a man who stood with General Chiang was a heady and troubling thought for all these junior officers here in the room. Guess wrong and they might be ending their own career futures or worst, see themselves swimming dead in the great river by morning's first light.

The smart thing was to find some...any leverage to





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use against her but, what?

This is when out mild manner Quin, third-year law student from Shanghai University, became the new focus of the gaining leverage.

It was late on the third day that she finally broke and turned over the actual documents that she had buried in the garden right next to the Law School Plaza where she and Quin had first met.

So, it was true. There had been a plot that involved an entire cadre of officials that seemed to originate over in the Foreign Office...While those involved where quickly taken away and to this day no one has ever seen any of them return. Dead most likely





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or worse, they expired in some nameless labor camp out in the Western Deserts.

The deal cut by Ariana's dad was that she would return to Paris to continue her studies until the day came when the faces of the current government passed on.

Quin was less fortunate in that he had no advocate, solicitor nor his family the connections to intervene and even though it was clear to anyone looking on that he played no part in any of this other than supporting the strange woman, a soul mate that he had been willing to die for.

In the end, he didn't die that day...









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In common sense retrospect... maybe it would have been better but that wasn't to be his destiny or the time and place of his death.

There was yet another chapter to be played out for Quin and in the end, it could be argued either that he gained national redemption or his fated end was pointless and without cause to the role in was to play.

After three months of solitary in a dank, dark cell in the deep belly of the famous Shanghai Police Station Holding Cells; a young Kuomintang Army Office came to meet him...there was the over of release but, it wasn't anywhere near the freedom





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that you would expect that any honest, innocent man would receive...Like, this is China...so that didn't happen.

The offer was a ten-year enlistment in the Volunteer Home Guard in exchange for a promise of a distant future chance for freedom. Of course, he accepted the kind offer and after his advanced military training, he was given the rank as a sergeant in the Home Guard and his unit was shipped off to a small grouping of farming villages on the road to Peiping.

## **This was May 1937.**









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Given his education but, more so given his rare ability in the general ranks of the Home Guard to read and write was the justifiable reasoning in promoting him to staff sergeant of his rouge little ban right out of his core training.

There was some musing coming nearly to fist-a-cuffs amongst his men as to why he had not been commissioned as an officer as had most of the other third or fourth sons of rich Tai-Pans that populated the officer corps.





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Given that Quin was a quiet person by nature very unlike most of the loud, cursing command class and more so; has he purposely elected not to share the saga of the sad events that had seen this promising young lad...a third-year law student from a famous university...deposited out to the middle of some dusty crossroads out on the middle of the very edge of the civilized world.

Many have said that his was a smart approach as the true story was lame (at best) and once it was discovered that he was here solely due to his









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misadventure with some rich man's daughter; the men who he needed to command would have dismissed him as unworthy of their trust and thought him to be a joke.

For some reason(s) that have never been properly explained; Quin took well to his new role and became a most respected leader that his men not only trusted but, some (in drunken stages) confess their actual love for him like his was their wiser, older brother by a different mother.





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The villages, he found to be crude but pleasant, the people friendly and most appreciated in the way his unit keep the hill bandits and even the local Warlord at bay.

His was developing a fondness for these people and he appreciated their positive attitude regardless of how badly God has wrought nothing but pain, suffering and utter poverty upon them all collectively.

His resentment grew towards the local Kuomintang ganstery of greedy little, fish-eye









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clerks who made a high art form out of robbing what very little the villagers had saved and towards the local warlord who took everything that was left.

Quin wrote home that in some ways he had a deeper respect for the local warlord as he did provide a useful service of protection to the villages and mostly, his “service” tax was aimed at the rich merchants and other of the well-known in the community.

His larger complaint against the local warlord was





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not in his robbery but, in how he and his band of street thugs (pretending to be soldiers) treated the people of the community with such dishonorable contempt and cruelty.

When asked by his father about his feelings for Ariana; Quin turned a deaf ear and changed the topic to the news that there was indeed a new love interest in his lonely life and then went on to talk about his total lack of courage to share his feelings with her as she was a respected member of the community being the village's only school teacher.





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His letter ended at that point and we never really got the full story as to Quin's new romance or even the young lady's name – all of that is now lost to the sands of history and overtaken by the events of July 7<sup>th</sup>.

As we have told you, in the short time (since late May) that Quin and his unit had been on patrol of these badlands; they had restored a balance of order and even the Kuomintang appreciated their service while complaining bitterly to their supervisors of how totally incorruptible they









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were to even the largest bribe.

Peace had been restored, the hill bandits decided to move on to greener pastures in villages quite a distance away and even the Warlord's men started to show some restraint when visiting the villages as no one wanted to get on the wrong side of Quin and his clan of warriors (this was the name given to his group by the locals).

Quin and his men had become local legends and respected as men of honor and a the "Flaming





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Sword of Justice" to their (and the people's) enemies.

On the morning of 6 July, several of his men came rushing into the encampment with wild stories about how something sinister was afoot, how the Kuomintang Administration had gone missing in the middle of the night in what was latter confirmed was a massive treasure train of ox carts loaded with the spoils of the several generations of their local rule and their collective families in tow and even, the warlord's men









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(always before very prompt) hadn't been around to collect the new month's "service" tax (which was always paid a month in advance by the local merchants).

All this was very strange and troubling as Quin and his men were taken by surprise. There had not been any issuing of evacuation orders or any warnings of even the slightest trouble or concern(s) from headquarters of the Home Guard in Peiping.

By early morning, Quin and his men were





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bombarded by the growing flood of concerns by the locals regarding how it seemed that many of the local shops in the business district had closed and the merchants were seen loading the remaining inventory into waiting oxcarts out behind their stores.

What was going on?

Quin and his men went into town to see for themselves.

As Quin rode into town, he could see that the





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largest percentage of merchants on the main plaza were in a state of panicked flight but were being very tight lipped regarding the cause or to justify why they were packing to leave in the middle of their busiest season.

Finally, under the threat to not let merchants' caravan leave towards Peiping, several of the more kindhearted merchants explained that their cousins in the Kuomintang had come to them late last night (before they themselves left town) to warn them that the Japanese were on the march,









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that they would soon be "standing in this very business square" and they (too) must pack to leave by no later than late afternoon – which they were when Quin interrupted them so rudely!

Japanese? They were on the march?

Quin had no way of knowing the truth as his base's radio had gone silent and it seems that no one from Peiping could or would respond to his desperate plea for conformation or more he hoped; their denial.





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Out of the crowd, Quin saw a few of the Warlords more trusted men coming forward and they shared that the Warlord had awoke them in the middle of the night and they were to prepare to serve as a rear guard for the Kuomintang Gangsters' Treasure Canavan as it fled up the road to Peiping.

Quin calmly and with no sense of panic in his voice asked them why they had not left with the others and to a man they proclaimed that they all had family (some of many generations) here in the villages.









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Quin gladly accepted their unsolicited offer to join his thin ranks and would march to his command “no matter as to what is to come!”

Quin told the merchants that they could only leave if they dumped all of their merchandise and filled the carts with the villages’ women and children (and of course, their beautiful young school teacher as Quin said “the children still need an education!”).

For the better part of an hour in the mid-morning, the screams, shouts and calls on Quin





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to resign his commission echoed loudly across the business plaza; one by one, the merchants loaded their carts with women and children and Quin (as promised) let them leave.

By noon, most of the people who wanted to leave were either packing or were already on the road out of town as Quin and his man stood tall and waved them on.

Quin's men insured that there was no panic as Quin had ordered his men to make sure that this will not be seen as a route and it wasn't.









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*On the road to Peiping*

**"THE FABLE OF QUIN AND ARIANA"**

# QUIN ALONE

The evacuation was orderly and other than a few stubborn merchants refusing to unload their merchandise who were silenced as Quin's men took the ox carts away from them and pointed them to be moving down the road.

Many modern scholars now look at this as Quin exceeding his authority and that he had no right to seize these ox carts but, even a blind man could see that it had saved many a life at the small expense of surely replaceable merchandise – or at least that was my read on what became





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# QUIN ALONE

known (in modern times) as the “Ox Cart” Scandal.

Still no word or confirmation/denial(s) from his senior command and with the entire town seemingly out on the road to Peiping; they retired back to the encampment to discuss their next course of actions.

What do we do?

That was a very good question for which Quin had no answer(s) or at least not that he was willing to share as he understood their duty and





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# QUIN ALONE

realized that if the Japanese were coming; they were the only ones who stood in the way of what he knew would be a slaughter of the villages' refugees.

He wasn't ready to have to make that statement hoping that he knew his men well enough to understand that they already knew this in the hearts that they couldn't stop any Japanese Advance but might slow it down enough to let the villages' people escape to safety...at least, he hoped that was the case and that he would not





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# QUIN ALONE

have to command them not to flee with their families and friend.

By this time, a few farmers from the outer farms on the far east side of the villages rode into the encampment to complain (file a complaint) that their newly planted fields were being tramped by several odd-looking tanks and told of how they had been chased out of their farms by heavy armed soldiers (in strange...unknown uniforms) as they sat up what Quin understand was an advance command post needed to further any attack upon the villages.









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# QUIN ALONE

None of this made "no sense!" as the newspapers that had just arrived by yesterday's post from Peiping spoke in banner headlines of how the (Americans) Foreign Devils had been working with both Japanese and Kuomintang ministers to establish what the newspaper referred to as a "Restraint" Policy of Peace between the two nations.

Sense or not, Quin understood that he must rally his men and set course to action in what he understood was a without any logical doubt going









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# QUIN ALONE

to be their last mission and that it was a one-way passage into the history books.

To the credit of his men, the remaining Warlord's soldiers and a small scattering of local farmers with some level of military training; none took him on his offer to not feel bad if they elected to leave.

Saddled and armed with every weapon they could muster; Quin and his men rode off to the eastern lands and on to the back pages (actually a mere footnote now if at all) of history but, the people succeeded in their flight to Peiping.









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# July 6, 1937

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### "THE FABLE OF QUIN AND ARIANA"

## JULY 6TH, 1937

is remembered as it had been for the most part, a rather ordinary day.

The Sun rose as normal, the heat of the day didn't differ from the norm and the farm communities arose early to complete their chores long before the heat made work pointless for everyone except the small community of Foreign Devils who had several farms and a mission school on the outskirts of

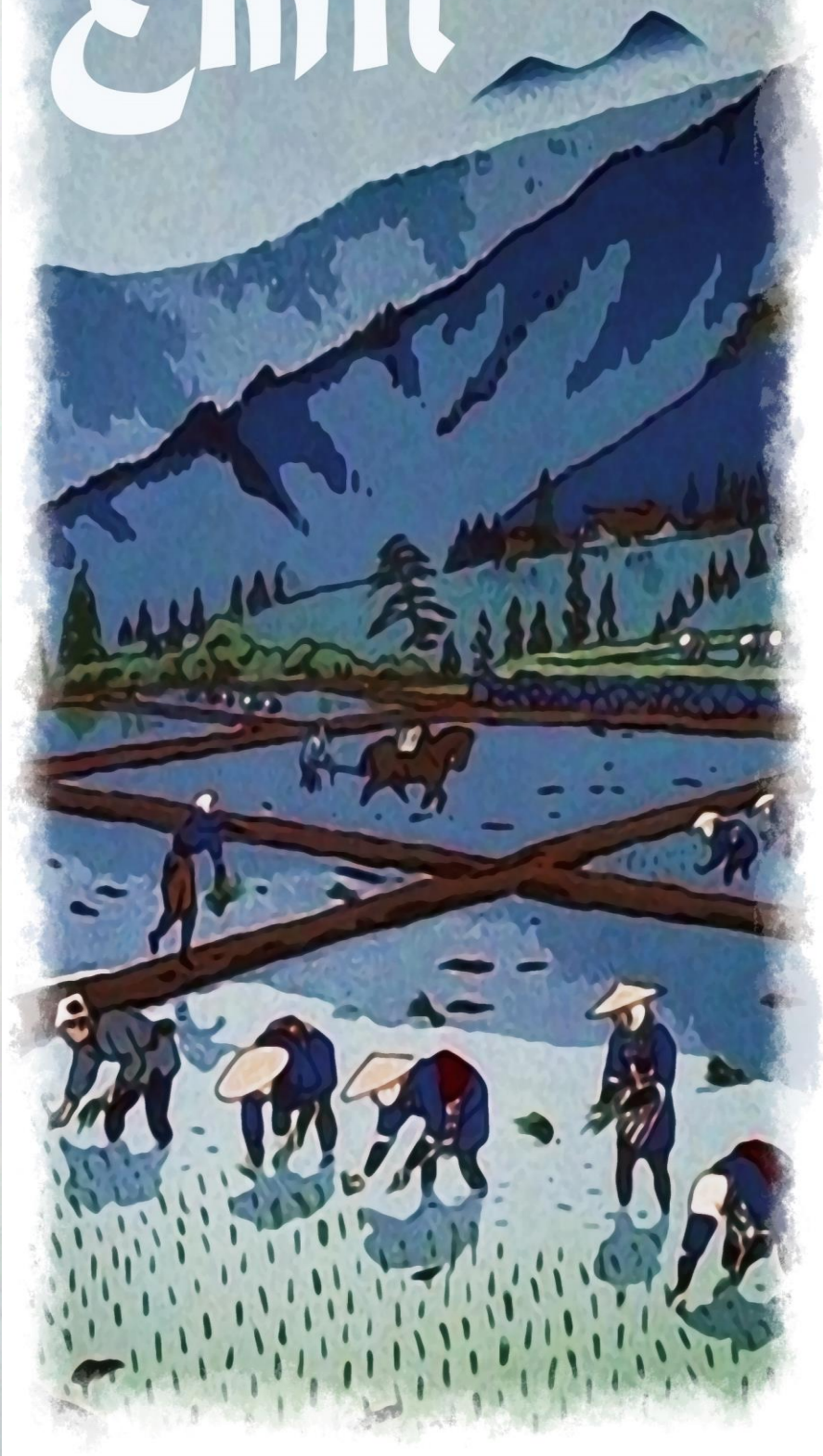
## PEIPING PROPER.

The day presented no outward signs that might have foretold the historical meaning of





# Emil







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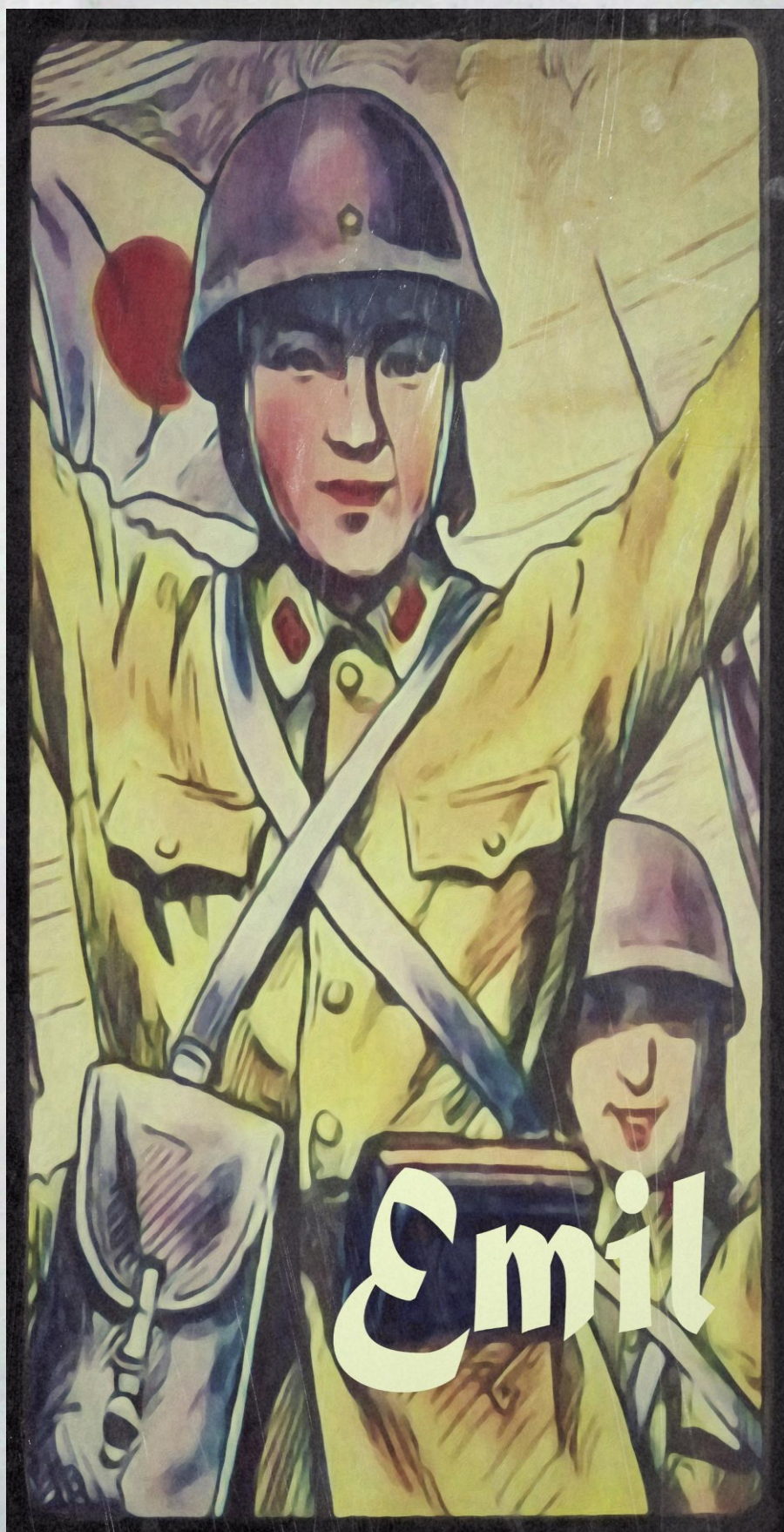
this day not even the slightest dabble little alone, a whiff of importance as it was to be the very last day of an old world or that in the early hours of the coming morn; that the whole world of Peiping would be

## **TURNED UPSIDE DOWN**

and then, twisted and jerked into what few could have dreamed in the worst nightmares of interesting times.

The signs were there, the newspapers talked in strange tales of Foreign Devils fleeing the countryside to the safety of the International Sector of Shanghai and the constant fear porn









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of a demon Nippon Army that reportedly had set up encampments not that from just over the dawn's eastern horizon from Peiping. Luckily, few if any more than a handful of the local farming community could read...

So, the dire, blood-red banners of

# FEAR PORN

warnings of impending doom that the newspapers screamed went unheeded and the farming communities around Peiping just went off for another day of hard labor in the fields.





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Latter day scholars would endlessly debate whether that lack of reading skills had been a blessing or was a curse to those who would first face the full assault of the

## IMPERIAL NIPPON ARMY

Still...there were oddities of the day started popping up in-and-about the business districts of the small villages surrounding Peiping as the day wore on.

Someone mentioned (in passing) that the Kuomintang Gangsters were strangely hard to find and even the local, neighborhood warlord, commander of what was (now) being





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called the Home Guard, had not sent any a single soldier out of his near by fortress to collect the monthly fee (their social harmony tax) from the local merchants.

What not many would know until much later, the vast majority of the Kuomintang

## ADMINISTRATION CLERKS

along with a large component of the communities Home Guard had already fled sometime in the middle of the (previous)

## MOONLESS NIGHT.

Very strange indeed!





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Where had they gone?

### WHY? WHATZ UP?

Had one had taken (even) a spare moment, it would have been almost worth pondering all these little oddities but, who had that kind of time except the small group of beggars that usually lined the entrance to the

### MARCO POLO BRIDGE

and since they too seemed to have gone mostly missing...there was no way or no one left to ask if we had.





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If one had (indeed) taken that spare moment to stop and had taken a good look around...even just a fleeting moment to take heed of all this; it would have been surely a troubling thought(s) that something was

## SURELY GOING ON

As the morning wore on into the noon hour, one might have taken note that the large portraits of the nation's father (Chiang Kai-shek) had begun to vanish from their normal store window locations as the normally tardy, store clerks shuttled about with much more





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urgency than one normally see - especially given the extreme of the mid-day heat.

What was with all the carts in the back of certain stores and why were they loaded with

## STORE MERCHANDISE

Then again, these were all little things that most locals would have overlooked, even outright ignored or just as quickly dismissed given the array of more important matters (at hand) to be taken care of...

There was Grandpa's sick water buffalo that needed a healer and much more troubling









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was the spreading news that the local chicken bandit had struck over six farms in the

## MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

The war was something that was far away and only came knocking on local doorsteps when the Kuomintang Gangsters came demanding the family's young men for soldiers, crops to sent off with the new recruitments or in new war taxes that had to be paid with post haste.

Most of the community would have universally voiced the opinion that they all had little or no concern for the far distant war.









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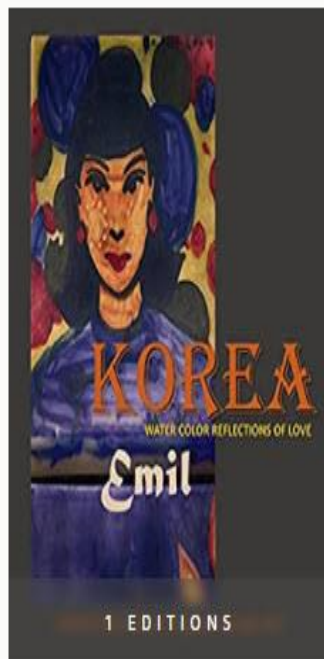
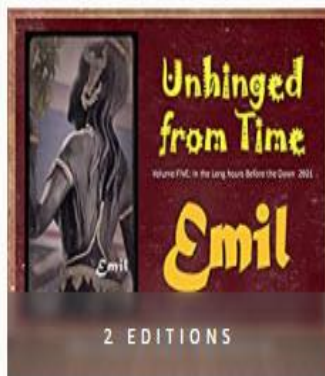


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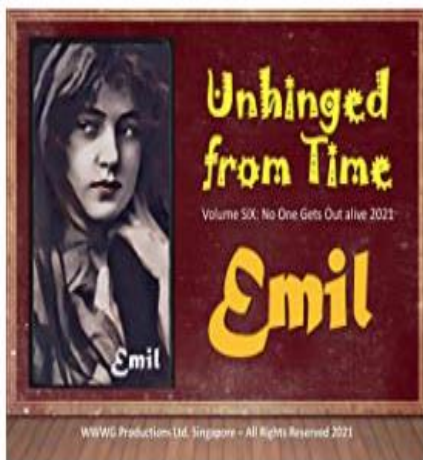
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## God's Warriors



## God's Warriors

"As the days were dragged into the endless moon, the long letters confessing love and admiration were shrunk to the graffiti on the back of the postcard from PX, after which they all stopped together.

Shiki never lost the belief that her young husband was fine, and continued to serve his full emperor ... long after (actually a few years) she said he was at a small crossroads in Northern China. She learned that he was killed in the battle, but could remember the name ... "



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